CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing transaction services wherein the
user of the transaction services interacts with a
computer-based transaction machine which has
transaction devices, said computer-based transaction
machine being controlled by one or more software
applications, said computer-based transaction machine
having an operating system which controls and receives
information from said transaction devices;
characterized in that the one or more software
applications interact with said transaction devices
through a programming interface of middleware software,
said middleware software interacting with the operating
system, wherein the services provided by the middleware
software depend on the capabilities of the transaction
devices but the programming interface does not depend
on the capabilities of the transaction devices.

2. A method for providing transaction services according
to Claim 1 wherein the transaction machine is selected
from a group which comprises automatic teller machines,
kiosks and electronic point of sale machines.

3. A method for providing transaction services according
to any preceding Claim wherein middleware software
comprises a series of transaction objects and controls
for standard device functions.

4. A method for providing transaction services according
to Claim 3 wherein transaction objects are independent
of the interface between the user and   .../

24. A method for providing transaction services according
    to any of Claims 19 to 23 wherein use of a web browser
    allows conventional web sites to be displayed by the
    computer-based transaction machine.

25. A method for providing transaction services according
    to Claim 24 wherein middleware software allows or
    disallows access to particular web sites according to a
    rule database.

26. A method for providing transaction services according
    to Claim 24 or Claim 25 wherein middleware software is
    adapted to customise time-out of the display of
    individual internet web sites.

27. A method for providing transaction services according
    to any preceding Claim wherein the computer-based
    transaction machine is adapted to allow the software
    applications and middleware to be altered across a
    network by an authority.

28. A method for providing transaction services according
    to any preceding Claim wherein the transaction machine
    can communicate information about their status to a
    remote monitoring station across a network.

29. A computer-based transaction machine having transaction
    devices; said computer-based transaction machine being
    controlled by one or more software applications, said
    computer-based transaction machine having an operating
    system which controls and receives information from
    said transaction devices; characterized in that the one

AMENDED SHEET

1 or more software applications interact with said
2 transaction devices through a programming interface of
3 middleware software, said middleware software
4 interacting with the operating system, wherein the
5 services provided by the middleware software depend on
6 the capabilities of the transaction devices but the
7 programming interface does not depend on the
8 capabilities of the transaction devices.
9
10 30. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim
11 29 wherein the transaction machine is selected from a
12 group which comprises automatic teller machines, kiosks
13 and electronic point of sale machines.
14
15 31. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim
16 29 or Claim 30 wherein middleware software comprises a
17 series of transaction objects and controls for standard
18 device functions.
19
20 32. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim
21 31 wherein transaction objects are independent of the
22 interface between the user and the transaction machine;
23 the interface between the user and the transaction
24 machine being customisable.
25
26 33. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim
27 31 or Claim 32 wherein controls implement a
28 capabilities interface.
29

Add
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